

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 03062 301514Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 3062

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ZA PPDC
SUBJ: LETTER FROM PRESIDENT KAUNDA TO PRESIDENT CARTER

REF: STATE 104987

THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF A LETTER DATED AUGUST 29
RECEIVED TODAY FROM PRESIDENT KAUNDA TO PRESIDENT CARTER
IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER OF AUGUST 14.

BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I WAS DEEPLY TOUCHED BY YOUR LETTER OF AUGUST 15,
1978 IN WHICH YOU BRIEFED ME ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE
EAST. MUCH AS I AM PRE-OCCUPIED WITH THE IMMEDIATE CRISES
IN NAMIBIA AND ZIMBABWE, I HAVE FOLLOWED WITH KEEN INTEREST
YOUR EFFORTS TO END THE BLOODY CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
I CANNOT SAY I UNDERSTAND THE MANY AND COMPLEX DIMENSIONS OF
THIS PROBLEM. HOWEVER, I HAVE DONE MY BEST TO TRY AND
UNDERSTAND THE BASIC ESSENTIALS UNDERLYING THE CRISIS.

IN MARCH, 1977, DURING THE AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT IN
CAIRO, I MET MR. ARAFAT, THE LEADER OF THE PLO. I MEANT TO
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WRITE YOU AT THAT TIME TO GIVE YOU MY IMPRESSIONS ABOUT MR.
ARAFAT. AT THAT TIME, HE TOLD ME WHAT YOU MUST ALREADY
KNOW, NAMELY, THAT HE IS COMMITTED TO PEACE IN THE MIDDLE
EAST. HE SAID HIS POLICY IS NOT THE DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL.
HE COMPLAINED THAT IN 1948, TWO STATES WERE PROPOSED BY A RESOLU-
TION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL BUT ONLY ONE STATE WAS ACTUALLY
CREATED WHICH RESULTED INTO MAKING MILLIONS OF PALESTINIANS

REFUGEES. ACCORDING TO HIM, THE CENTRAL PROBLEM IS THE CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE IN WHICH MILLIONS OF PALASTINIANS, NOW REFUGEES, CAN FIND A HOME OF THEIR OWN. AS LONG AS SUCH A STATE WAS NOT CREATED, THERE WILL BE NO PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

I THOUGHT THEN THAT WITH YOUR COMMITMENT TO PEACE, YOU WOULD CONVINCE THE ISRAELIS AS YOU APPEAR TO BE DOING NOW THAT THE CREATION OF PALESTINIAN STATE WAS CENTRAL TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT I WAS MOST IMPRESSED BY ARAFAT'S FRANKNESS, MODERATION AND COMPOSURE WHEN GIVING ME AN EXPOSE ON THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS. I HAVE NOT MET HIM SINCE THE CAIRO SUMMIT LAST YEAR. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER HIS POSITION HAS CHANGED.

WHEN I RECEIVED YOUR MESSAGE I WAS IN THE PROCESS OF MAKING CONTACT WITH THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES THROUGH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF ZAMBIAN JEWRY IN LUSAKA, MR. ABE GALAUN AS WE HAVE NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. I HAD ALREADY EXPRESSED MY READINESS TO RECEIVE AN ISRAEL ENVOY AS I HAVE DONE FROM TIME TO TIME TO GET A FULL PICTURE OF THE DEVELOPMENTS FROM AN ISRAELI ANGLE. I NEED TO KNOW THE ISRAELI FORMULA FOR ENDING THE CONFLICT. WHEN I GOT YOUR MESSAGE, I FELT THAT YOU SHOULD INFORM PRIME
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MINISTER BEGIN THAT I AM READY TO RECEIVE VERY QUIETLY HIS CONFIDANT SO THAT I CAN HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING OF TEL AVIV'S POINT OF VIEW. AT THE MOMENT, I HAVE SOME IDEA OF THE EGYPTIAN POSITION HAVING BRIEFLY DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT WITH PRESIDENT SADAT DURING THE RECENT OAU SUMMIT IN KHARTOUM. I CAN TESTIFY TO PRESIDENT SADAT'S COMMITMENT TO PEACE AND HIS READINESS TO STAKE HIS REPUTATION AND NAME TO ACHIEVE PEACE IN THAT REGION. MEETING MR. BEGIN IS A VERY HIGH PRICE FOR HIM TO PAY.

I, THEREFORE, HOPE THAT THE ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER CAN SEND AN ENVOY WHO WILL BE THE GUEST OF MR. A. GALAUN. THE QUIETER THE VISIT THE MORE EFFECTIVE OUR APPROACH WILL BE. I CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT WE SHALL BE HELPFUL IN YOUR ENDEAVOURS. HOWEVER, EVEN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT WOULD EASE OUR CONSCIENCE.

I WANT TO ASSURE YOU OF MY VERY DEEP INTEREST IN THE FORTHCOMING CAMP DAVID SUMMIT WHICH I HOPE AND PRAY WILL MOVE THE MIDDLE EAST AWAY FROM THE THREAT OF WAR TOWARDS DURABLE PEACE AND STABILITY FOR THE PEOPLE OF THAT AREA. I WOULD HOPE

THAT I COULD HAVE ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS CONCRETE PROPOSALS WHICH
WILL EMERGE SOON FOR A MOVEMENT FORWARD. IN THIS WAY, ALL MEN
OF GOOD-WILL CAN JOIN HANDS IN TRYING TO HELP BUILD BRIDGES
TO THE GOAL WHICH WE ALL DESIRE.

I WANT TO SAY AGAIN HOW DEEPLY I APPRECIATE YOUR
BRIEFING ME ON THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS. I SEND YOU MY
BEST WISHES FOR A SUCCESSFUL MEETING.

WITH MY WARMEST PERSONAL REGARDS AND GOD'S BLESSINGS.

AS ALWAYS,

KENNETH D. KAUNDA
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END TEXT
CLINGERMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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